

## FIRST WASATCH COUNTY STAKE PRESIDENCY



President Abram Hatch

Thomas H. Giles  
First CounselorHenry S. Alexander  
Second Counselor

County. The wards at that time were Heber East, Heber West, Midway, Wallsburg, Charleston, Buysville, Upper Daniels, Center, Lake Creek, Francis, Benchcreek, Elkhorn, Riverdale and Woodland. In Uintah County there were Ashley Center, Mill District, Ashley Fork and Merrill Wards.

Some of the stake officers appointed at the time of stake organization were Thomas Todd, president of the Elders Quorum with Orson Hicken and Henry Ohlwiler as counselors. John M. Murdock was named president of the High Priests Quorum with John Jordan and Charles N. Carroll as counselors. Thomas Rasband was appointed to preside over the priests, Thomas Hicken Sr. to preside over teachers and J. Heber Moulton over the deacons. William Forman was named to act as the agent for the Presiding Bishop of the Church. Emma Brown

was chosen as president of the stake Relief Society, with Mary Daybell and Sarah Alexander as counselors.

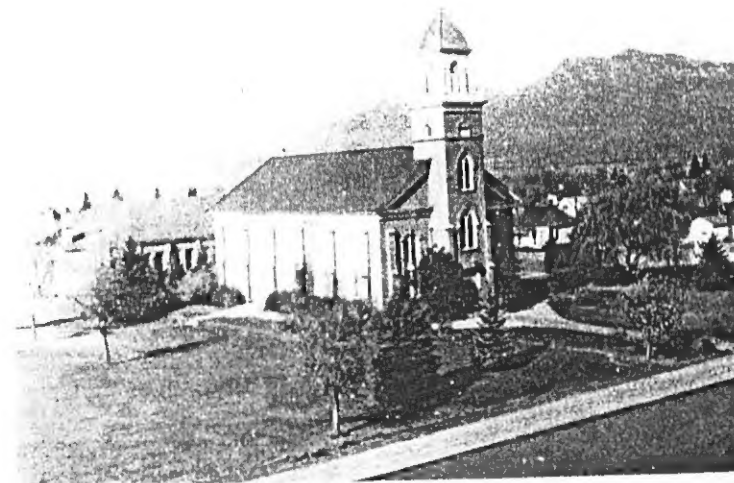
According to the stake statistical report of February 3, 1878, the membership of Wasatch Stake totaled 2,296 persons and 392 families. There were 90 High Priests, 40 Seventies, 162 Elders, 16 Priests, 33 Teachers, 34 Deacons, 1,141 other members and 780 children under eight years of age.

By 1887, ten years after the stake was organized, President Hatch realized the need for a stake house or stake tabernacle. In that year he rallied the people to the cause and built the entire structure with donated labor and materials. Cost of the building was more than \$30,000. However, all donated their quota either in labor, materials or cash and the project went forward rapidly. Youngsters, and some older people, would save pennies and nickels and when they had accumulated 25 or 30 cents, make a contribution to the project.

President Hatch himself served as superintendent of the project with Elisha Averett in charge of the masonry work and Alex Fortie directing the carpentry work. The shingles, on the tower of the building, were cut from sheet metal and placed by Frederick O. Buell. Francis Kirby did the painting. The red sandstone was quarried by hand from mountains east of Heber in Lake Creek.

The building was ready for dedication May 5, 1889, and Elder Francis M. Lyman of the Council of the Twelve came for the dedication. An item in the "Wasatch Wave" of May 4, 1889 noted the event as follows:

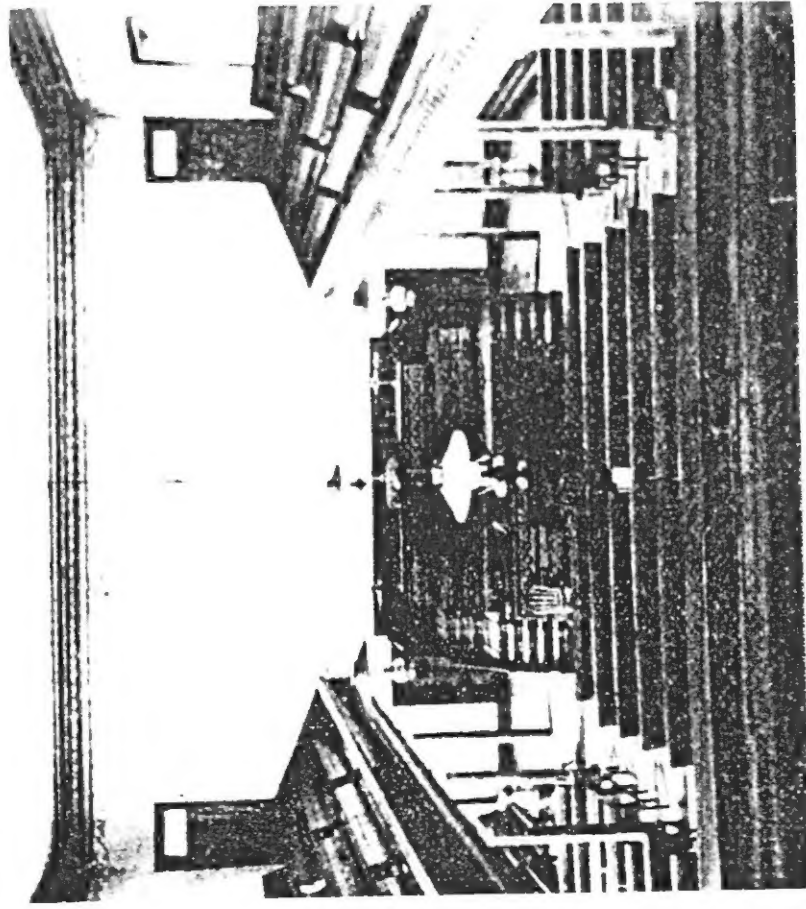
"The Stake House is finished and cleaned in beautiful style ready



The Wasatch Stake Tabernacle  
The building was constructed between 1887 and 1889.

for dedication tomorrow. Conference visitors are expected to clean their feet before entering the building and leave their knives and pencils and tobacco at home."

Then in the "Wave" issue of May 11, 1889, the following was reported:



Interior of the Wasatch Stake House as it was originally built. The floor was scrubbed and bleached with home made soap. Home made carpets were laid down the aisles. Coal oil lamps hanging from the ceiling furnished light. Pot bellied stoves in each of the four corners. There were balconies on both sides and the end. Posts on either side to support the gallery which had three tiers of seats on different elevations. The stand had three elevations of seats—the top row was always occupied by the stake presidency and the general authorities. The middle row by the high council and the lower row by the ward bishops.

"The greatest number of people ever congregated in Heber at one time was at the dedication of the Stake House last Sunday and Monday. There were 1300 people in the Stake House on Sunday afternoon and it was stated 200 more could be comfortably seated."

The original plan of the building had an entrance foyer much as it is now, with steps leading into the front gallery. A large assembly room.